



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1985

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BOAT PEOPLE DECIDE AGAINST CLOSED CENTRES
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FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR A GROUP OF 39 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO SPENT NEARLY SEVEN WEEKS SAILING FROM NORTH VIETNAM TO HONG KONG ELECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY RATHER THAN ENTER ONE OF THE TERRITORY'S CLOSED CENTRES.

THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH A FRESH SUPPLY OF FOOD AND WATER AND MINOR REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT TO THEIR BOAT ENGINE BEFORE THEY SAILED ON.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE 39 WERE FROM A BOATLOAD OF 44 INTERCEPTED BY MARINE POLICE OFF SIU AH CHAU TO THE SOUTHWEST OF HONG KONG ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 7. THEY HAD LEFT GUANGNING IN NORTH VIETNAM ON DECEMBER 20 LAST YEAR.

AFTER THE ENGINE REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT BY A MARINE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTOR, THE 39 LEFT HONG KONG ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 9.

THE FIVE WHO CHOSE TO STAY WERE TRANSFERRED TO CHI MA WAN CLOSED CENTRE TWO DAYS LATER, ON FEBRUARY 11.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GROUP WERE AWARE OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY TO DETAIN NEW ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM IN CLOSED CENTRES, AND ALL BUT THE FIVE ELECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.

THIS WAS THE FOURTH TIME SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CLOSED CENTRE POLICY THAT A GROUP OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HAD OPTED TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY OUT OF HONG KONG WATERS.

IN THE FIRST CASE ON MAY 20, 1983 A GROUP OF 14 ARRIVED IN HONG KONG BUT LEFT TWO DAYS LATER. THE SECOND GROUP OF 17 ARRIVED ON APRIL 19, 1984 AND LEFT FIVE DAYS LATER. THE THIRD GROUP OF 14 ARRIVED ON AUGUST 9 LAST YEAR AND LEFT ON AUGUST 15.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN ALL CASES EVERY REQUEST THAT THE BOAT PEOPLE MADE FOR SUPPLIES OR REPAIRS TO THEIR VESSELS HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

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WORKING GROUP ON ROADS SUBMITS REPORT
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON ROADS, THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR WILLIAM MARSHALL, SAID TODAY.

THE GROUP (WHICH HE HAD CHAIRED) HAD BEEN SET UP IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR AT THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECTION TO RESOLVE THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH EXISTED REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC PROVISIONS ON PRIVATE ROADS, HE SAID.

IT WAS NOT ALWAYS CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE COULD BE ENFORCED WITHIN PRIVATE ESTATES, SINCE THE DEFINITION OF +ROAD+ WITHIN THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE DEPENDED ON PUBLIC ACCESS.

THE WORKING GROUP HAD VISITED A NUMBER OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND SPOKEN WITH THE MANagements CONCERNED BEFORE FORMULATING THE PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON TUESDAY.

MR MARSHALL SAID THAT THE MAIN PROPOSAL WAS THAT THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION WHICH RELATED TO SAFETY (INCLUDING INSURANCE, LICENSING AND CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) SHOULD APPLY TO ALL ROADS IN THE TERRITORY (OTHER THAN INDUSTRIAL AND WORK SITES), WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE.

THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ESTATES WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ENACT BY-LAWS (SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT) WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ENFORCE THEIR OWN PARKING RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROL TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS.

MR MARSHALL STRESSED THAT THE POWER TO ENACT BY-LAWS WAS PERMISSIVE AND NOT MANDATORY AND THAT THE PROPOSAL MERELY PROVIDED ESTATE MANagements WITH THE MEANS TO OBTAIN AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES THAT MANY ESTATES ALREADY EXERCISED. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL WAS TO ACHIEVE CERTAINTY IN THE LAW AND TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE LAW DRAFTSMAN WOULD SHORTLY BE CONSULTED TO PRODUCE THE NECESSARY DRAFT LEGISLATION AND, ONCE IMPLEMENTED, THE PRESENT DOUBT AS TO THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW WOULD BE REMOVED.

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PUBLICATIONS TELL ABOUT BOARD'S WORK
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TWO PUBLICATIONS ON THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK.

A 108-PAGE BOOKLET ENTITLED +THE SECOND TERM KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WORK REPORT+ RECORDS THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BOARD FROM OCTOBER 1982 TO MARCH 1984, WHILE A LEAFLET GIVES DETAILS COVERING THE PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE TWO PUBLICATIONS WERE COMPILED ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS BY THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS. THE WORK REPORT ALSO CONTAINS CHAPTERS ON THE HISTORY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

COPIES OF THE WORK REPORT WILL BE SENT TO ALL LOCAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

ABOUT 200 000 COPIES OF THE LEAFLET WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO HOUSEHOLDS IN THE DISTRICT AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK SAID THE PUBLICATIONS WERE AIMED AT PROVIDING RESIDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF SCRUTINISING THE BOARD'S WORK OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

+THE PUBLICATIONS ALSO PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THEIR DISTRICT BOARD AND GIVE THEM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

+I HOPE THAT AFTER READING WHAT THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS DONE FOR THEM, RESIDENTS WILL BE MORE READY TO CAST THEIR VOTES ON MARCH 7,+ HE ADDED.

THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD HAS SPENT ABOUT \$125 000 PRODUCING THE TWO PUBLICATIONS.

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LADY YOUDE TOURS KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI
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LADY YOUDE VISITED VARIOUS PLACES IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE THE SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR CHAN SUI-JEUNG, AND THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TAM WING-PONG, SHE VISITED THE CHEUNG CHING COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TSING YI ISLAND AND MET MEMBERS OF THE CHING HONG YIN NGAI SOCIETY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

LADY YOUDE THEN TOURED THE CHUNG MEI LO UK RESITE VILLAGE AND MET TSING YI RURAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

LATER SHE STOPPED AT THE HONG KONG UNITED DOCKYARDS AND LOOKED AT THE REPAIR FACILITIES, INCLUDING THREE FLOATING DOCKS FOR ALL TYPES OF SHIPS.

FROM TSING YI ISLAND, LADY YOUDE WENT TO THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE IN LAI KING. SHE WAS BRIEFED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, MR FRANCIS TIEN, ON THE TRAINING FACILITIES PROVIDED IN THE CENTRE.

AT HER LAST STOP - THE S.K.H. LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE - LADY YOUDE MET THE CENTRE DIRECTOR, MRS NANCY LAM, AND SAW THE OPERATIONS OF AN ELDERLY CO-OPERATIVE WORKSHOP AND A NURSERY IN THE CENTRE.

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QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED
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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED LARGELY STABLE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1984 WAS 3.8 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.5 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1984. THE RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1983 WAS 4.1 PER CENT. THE INCREASE OF 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE DECREASE OF 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1983, WERE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 99 500, AS COMPARED WITH 92 400 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1984 AND 105 500 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983.

/THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1984 WAS 0.8 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 1.0 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE RATE FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983 WAS 1.4 PER CENT. THE DECREASE IN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER WAS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, BUT THAT OVER THE YEAR WAS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THAT IS, IT IS GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR. THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984 WAS 21 800, AS COMPARED WITH 25 600 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1984. THE NUMBER FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1983 WAS 36 800. CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

HE ADDED THAT BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR NOVEMBER 1984 - JANUARY 1985 WAS 3.5 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.0 PER CENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1984 WAS 4.1 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 53 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD SAMPLED.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE LATE IN MARCH.

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EXPORT LICENCE RULES EXPLAINED

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS, PARTICULARLY QUOTA-SUPPLIERS, THAT THEY SHOULD ENSURE THAT LICENSED QUANTITIES ARE WHOLLY SHIPPED.

SHORT-SHIPMENTS IN RESPECT OF EACH EXPORT LICENCE MUST BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DAY ON WHICH THE GOODS ARE EXPORTED.

AN EXPORT LICENCE NOT USED WITHIN ITS VALIDITY PERIOD MUST BE CANCELLED WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE EXPIRY DATE.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS MAY RESULT IN PENALTIES, INCLUDING PERMANENT SURRENDER OF QUOTA AND DEBARMENT OF THE COMPANIES CONCERNED FROM PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE TEXTILE EXPORT CONTROL SCHEMES.

DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN A RECENTLY-PUBLISHED NOTICE TO EXPORTERS WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT THE ENQUIRIES SECTION OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, GROUND FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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BIG RISE IN INSOLVENCIES BEING HANDLED

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A TOTAL OF 1 746 INSOLVENCIES WAS BEING HANDLED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

THESE INVOLVED 1 128 COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 618 PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES, SHOWING AN INCREASE OF 31 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURES AT THE END OF 1983, WHEN THERE WERE 1 326 INSOLVENCIES -- 864 OF THEM BEING COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 462 PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES.

DURING 1984 THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER WAS APPOINTED LIQUIDATOR IN 315 NEW COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 187 NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES.

THIS REPRESENTED A COMBINED INCREASE OF 20.4 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES OVER 1983, WHICH SAW 280 NEW COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 137 NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES.

BY COMPARISON THERE WAS A 35.4 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES IN 1983 OVER 1982.

IT COULD BE SEEN, THEREFORE, THAT WHILE THE RATE OF NEW INSOLVENCIES WAS STILL INCREASING THE RATE OF INCREASE HAD SLOWED DOWN, MR NOEL GLEESON, REGISTRAR GENERAL, SAID.

/FUNDS HELD

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FUNDS HELD BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AT THE END OF 1984 TOTALLED \$426 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF OVER 90 PER CENT AS AGAINST \$232 MILLION AT THE END OF 1983.

TOTAL DIVIDENDS PAID BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER DURING 1984 AMOUNTED TO \$15.7 MILLION IN 144 INSOLVENCIES, AS AGAINST \$29 MILLION IN 109 INSOLVENCIES IN 1983. THE DIFFERENCE IN THE 1983 AND 1984 FIGURES IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE PAYMENT OF THE TSE LEE YUEN FIRST INTERIM DIVIDEND OF \$18 MILLION IN DECEMBER 1983.

NOTABLE COMPANY FAILURES DURING 1984 INCLUDED THE EACA GROUP OF COMPANIES, THE GOODYEAR GROUP OF COMPANIES, N AND J INTERNATIONAL LTD, BYLAMSON AND ASSOCIATES (ENTERPRISES) LTD, J OSAWA AND CO. (HONG KONG) LTD, BEDFORD INSURANCE CO. LTD, ALLIED FOOD INDUSTRIES (FAR EAST) LTD, WING KEE CO. LTD, THE MILLIES GROUP OF COMPANIES, AND DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LTD.

MR GLEESON PRAISED THE PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER STAFF OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE +WHO WERE COPING BRAVELY WITH A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION+.

STAFF HAD BEEN REDEPLOYED FROM OTHER DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT BUT THIS FELL FAR SHORT OF WHAT WAS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT VOLUME OF INSOLVENCIES, HE SAID.

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CANDIDATES PLATFORMS ON DISPLAY

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COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHS AND PLATFORMS OF THE 21 CANDIDATES CONTESTING SEATS ON THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD HAVE BEEN PUT ON DISPLAY AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

ON SHOW ALSO ARE A CONSTITUENCY MAP, AND A LIST OF POLLING STATIONS AND VOTING SLOGANS.

WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, SAID THAT THROUGH THE PUBLICITY DISPLAY WINDOW, WAN CHAI RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF ALL CANDIDATES AND WOULD BE CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF THE ELECTIONS.

+AS THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS SITUATED AT THE HEART OF BUSTLING HENNESSY ROAD, THE DISPLAY WINDOW WILL SERVE AS AN IDEAL PUBLICITY VENUE,+ HE SAID.

APART FROM THE SHOW WINDOW DISPLAY, PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES TO BE LAUNCHED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE COMING WEEKS INCLUDE A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION VARIETY SHOW, AN EXHIBITION, ERECTION OF PUBLICITY BLOCKS, PANELS AND BANNERS, FORUMS FOR CANDIDATES, A TRAMS PARADE AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENTS.

+RESIDENTS SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND CAST THEIR VOTES ON MARCH 7,+ MR LAM ADDED.

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YUEN LONG CANDIDATES MEET PUBLIC
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THE 32 CANDIDATES STANDING FOR THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE PUBLIC AT A FORUM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 16).

YUEN LONG IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WITH 32 CANDIDATES CONTESTING FOR 10 SEATS ON THE BOARD.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON SAID: +THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE 32 CANDIDATES IS 47, WITH ONLY ONE WOMAN.+

+THEIR OCCUPATIONS RANGE FROM TEACHERS AND HEADMASTERS, TO MERCHANTS, CLERKS, COMPANY DIRECTORS, MANAGERS AND LAWYERS,+ HE SAID.

AMONG THE 32 CANDIDATES, 18 ARE STANDING FOR ELECTIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHILE FIVE ARE SERVING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND NINE OTHERS HAD ELECTION EXPERIENCE IN 1982.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FORUM AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 16) AT LUT SAU HALL, TAI YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

A GOVERNMENT VAN WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI AT 8 AM SHARP TO TAKE PRESS MEMBERS TO YUEN LONG.

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REGIONAL MAPS AVAILABLE
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SETS OF REGIONAL MAPS SHOWING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEAONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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BOARD TO CONSIDER SUBWAY PLANS
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A PROPOSAL TO ALTER PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY AT THE JORDAN ROAD INTERSECTION AND FERRY CONCOURSE WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS' VIEW WILL BE SOUGHT TO ALLOCATE \$25 000 TO ORGANISE A +CLASSIC+ CAR PARADE AND VARIETY SHOW TO PUBLICISE THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY A WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPERS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS BY VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, CHECKLIST OF OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND ACTIONS BY THE DB, FINANCIAL POSITION OF DB FUNDS, COMPLAINTS LODGED WITH DB MEMBERS, AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

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FESTIVE LIGHTS GO ON TOMORROW
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LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVE LIGHTS IN VICTORIA PARK WILL BE SWITCHED ON FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING AND WILL BE ON UNTIL MARCH 6.

FUNDED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT \$35 000, THE LIGHTING DISPLAYS FEATURE FOUR CHINESE DOLLS HOLDING A CARP DENOTING PROSPERITY AND PEACE, WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON DAILY FROM 6 PM TO MIDNIGHT, AND FROM 6 PM UNTIL 6 AM ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE. BETWEEN FEBRUARY 20 TO 24 THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON FROM 6 PM TO 1 AM.

AN EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DISTRICT BOARD DECIDED TO ALLOCATE FUNDS AGAIN, FOR THE LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS.

+THIS WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND THE PUBLIC WHO VISIT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR AT VICTORIA PARK TO SHARE THE FESTIVE MOOD,+ HE SAID.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, WILL SWITCH ON THE LIGHTING DISPLAY AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE URBAN COUNCILLOR MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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ELECTION POSTERS ON PLBS, MAXICABS
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PUBLICITY POSTERS OF DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATES CAN BE POSTED ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND MAXICABS, PROVIDED PERMISSION IS SOUGHT BY THE LICENCEES FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY.

CANDIDATES NEED NOT APPLY FOR SUCH PERMISSION, BUT PLB AND MAXICAB OPERATORS MUST OBTAIN A SPECIAL PERMIT FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IF THEY WANT TO DISPLAY ELECTION POSTERS OF CANDIDATES ON THEIR VEHICLES, HE SAID, CLARIFYING AN EARLIER REPORT.

NO FEE WOULD BE CHARGED FOR THIS TYPE OF SPECIAL PERMIT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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BOARD TO LEARN ABOUT TOWN PROJECTS
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NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE FANLING NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT THEIR MEETING ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 18).

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE +MEET-THE-PUBLIC+ SCHEME.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES, A BIMONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND THE ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 18) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, FANLING ROUNDABOUT.

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YOUTHS BRING FUN TO OLD FOLK
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A LARGE GROUP OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS BROUGHT HAPPINESS AND WARMTH TO THE ELDERLY IN YUEN LONG BY STAGING A MATINEE AND DISTRIBUTING GIFTS TO THEM THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

SOME 200 JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS FROM YUEN LONG DISTRICT ACCOMPANIED ABOUT 250 ELDERLY PEOPLE TO THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL FOR THE MATINEE AND HELPED LOOK AFTER THEM DURING THE WHOLE AFTERNOON.

THE SPECIAL TREAT WAS ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE AND THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT OFFICE. IT WAS AIMED AT ENTERTAINING THE ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE EVE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL AND PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS AND WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

TO THE DELIGHT OF THE ELDERLY, THERE WERE A CANTONESE OPERA, DANCING AND A SINGING PERFORMANCES BY YOUNGSTERS IN THE DISTRICT.

DURING THE AFTERNOON SHOW, THE ELDERLY WERE EACH GIVEN A NEW YEAR GIFT AND A RED PACKET. THEY ALSO SHARED A BIG BIRTHDAY CAKE WHICH CELEBRATED THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF JPC.

IN AN ADDRESS TO THE PARTICIPANTS, MR LEE WAI-KWONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE MATINEE'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, SAID: +COMPARED WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES, THOSE HELD FOR AGED PEOPLE ARE SOMEWHAT A BIT LESS IN YUEN LONG.

+YUEN LONG DISTRICT JPC MEMBERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO YOU ALL TO SUPPORT AND ORGANISE MORE ACTIVITIES FOR THE AGED PEOPLE.+

MR LEE ALSO THANKED THE MEMBERS OF YUEN CHING ASSOCIATION, THE STUDENTS OF LING OI PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CHUNG SING PRIMARY SCHOOL WHO GAVE THE PERFORMANCE.

ALSO ATTENDING THE FUNCTION WERE MR BASIL LIM, POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER OF YUEN LONG AND SPONSOR MADAM LEUNG SING-TAK.

THE ELDERLY WERE FROM THE SALVATION ARMY'S KAM TIN CARE AND ATTENTION HOME, THE YUEN LONG HOME FOR THE AGED BLIND AND THE CARITAS YING SHUI HOME FOR THE AGED.

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THREE HOUSING TENDERS APPROVED
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THREE PUBLIC HOUSING TENDERS TOTALLING MORE THAN \$110.7 MILLION WERE APPROVED TODAY BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE.

THEY COVER THE SITE FORMATION WORK FOR A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ESTATE IN NGAU CHI WAN AND A RENTAL ESTATE IN SIU CHAI WAN, AS WELL AS THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION ON NEW BLOCKS IN HIN KENG ESTATE, SHA TIN.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY MR H.M.G. FORSGATE.

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COMMITTEE SEES CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS
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MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE TODAY WENT ON THE GROUND AND INSPECTED CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS IN THREE KOWLOON PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS.

HEADED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR GERALD FORSGATE, THEY VISITED THE KWUN TONG (TSUI PING ROAD) ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LOK WAH ESTATE AND THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME TIN MA COURT.

MR FORSGATE SAID AFTERWARDS HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS.

+IT JUST SEEMS YESTERDAY WHEN I LAST INSPECTED THE SITE FORMATION WORK AT TIN MA COURT IN 1982.+

TIN MA COURT IS BEING DEVELOPED IN TWO PHASES AND WILL HOUSE ALTOGETHER 12 000 PEOPLE IN 2 800 FLATS ON FIVE BLOCKS ON FULL COMPLETION NEXT YEAR.

ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR HOUSING OFFICIALS, THE PARTY ALSO SAW SEMI-MECHANISED CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES IN USE AT THE THIRD PHASE OF REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR KWUN TONG (TSUI PING ROAD) ESTATE.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1985

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FIVE SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES FOR 1985
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THE POST OFFICE WILL BE PUTTING OUT FIVE SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES WITH A VARIETY OF THEMES THIS YEAR.

THE FIRST SPECIAL STAMPS, DEPICTING HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF HONG KONG -- THE HUNG SING TEMPLE, THE OLD SUPREME COURT, ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AND THE WAN CHAI POST OFFICE -- WILL BE ON SALE ON MARCH 14.

THE STAMPS, DESIGNED BY MR MEL HARRIS, WILL BE SOLD IN A GOLD AND RED PRESENTATION FOLDER.

THE SECOND SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS WILL HAVE THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AS ITS THEME, AND WILL BE ISSUED ON JUNE 19.

IT IS DESIGNED BY MR R.W. HOOKHAM AND WILL BE ISSUED IN A SOUVENIR SHEET OF FOUR STAMPS, IN A SETENANT STRIP SHOWING A COMPLETE BOAT IN ACTION.

HONG KONG WILL BE ONE OF THE 15 COMMONWEALTH TERRITORIES CONTRIBUTING TO AN OMNIBUS SERIES FEATURING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE QUEEN MOTHER. THE SET OF FOUR STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED ON AUGUST 7.

FLOWERS OF HONG KONG WILL BE THE THEME FOR A SET OF SIX STAMPS TO BE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 25. THE FLOWERS ARE MELASTOMA, CHINESE LILY, GRANTHAM'S CAMELLIA, NARCISSUS, BAUHINIA AND CHINESE NEW YEAR FLOWER.

THESE STAMPS, DESIGNED BY MR NICK JESSE, WILL ALSO BE REPRODUCED ON POSTCARDS FOR SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES.

THE LAST ISSUE OF THE YEAR WILL COMPLEMENT THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS ISSUE IN MARCH. THE NEW BUILDINGS OF HONG KONG - THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, THE NEW HK AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING, EXCHANGE SQUARE AND THE COLISEUM - WILL BE DEPICTED IN A SET OF FOUR STAMPS DESIGNED BY MR NICK JESSE TO BE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 27.

MORE DETAILS OF THESE STAMPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE TIME OF ISSUE.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1985

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CLOSURE OF ROOFTOP STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED THAT TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF OF A BUILDING AT 21-23 LEE TUNG STREET, WAN CHAI, SHOULD BE CLOSED SO THAT THE STRUCTURES COULD BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR THE PUBLIC.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER AT THE VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 21 AT 9.30 AM WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THE CLOSURE APPLICATION WAS PART OF THE JOB OF ENFORCING THE ORDERS REQUIRING DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES, ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

RECENT INSPECTIONS HAD SHOWN THAT THE ORDERS HAD NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

+DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS MADE,+ HE SAID.

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BOARD LOOKING INTO STATIONS' NAMES

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PROPOSED NAMES FOR A NUMBER OF LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT STATIONS IN TUEN MUN WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO SEEK MEMBERS' VIEW ON A SCHEME PROPOSED BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE A LEGAL MEANS OF REDRESS AGAINST NUISANCES CAUSED BY VICE-ESTABLISHMENTS TO OTHER OCCUPANTS IN THE SAME BUILDING.

THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE THE REPORT ON THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD U.K. STUDY TOUR, AND THE COMMENTS OF A WORKING GROUP ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE NINTH FLOOR, FOO YICK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAN ON CIRCUIT, TUEN MUN.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE AM 5797 WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 9 AM SHARP TO TAKE PRESS MEMBEK TO TUEN MUN.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1985

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TSUEN WAN SET FOR NEW YEAR GLITTER
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FOUR AREAS IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT WILL BE GLITTERING WITH COLOURFUL LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) UNTIL FEBRUARY 26.

THE FESTIVE LIGHTS, COSTING ABOUT \$150 000, HAVE BEEN PUT UP AT THE FOOTBRIDGE OUTSIDE FOU WAH CENTRE, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, THE TSING YI BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT AND AT THE JUNCTION OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

MRS MABEL HAYES, WIFE OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR J.W. HAYES, WILL OFFICIATE AT A SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY AT THE OPEN AIR CAR-PARK OUTSIDE FOU WAH CENTRE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING.

THE LUNAR NEW YEAR DECORATIVE LIGHTINGS IS SPONSORED BY THE TUSEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD.

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REFRESHER COURSES OFFERED
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FOUR FULL-TIME REFRESHER COURSES FOR ENGLISH AND CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION IN THE 1985-86 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE COURSES DEAL WITH PRESENT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING.

NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED, AND PARTICIPANTS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSES WILL BE ISSUED WITH REFRESHER COURSE CERTIFICATES.

THE COURSES, TWO FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS AND TWO FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS, WILL EACH LAST FOR 16 WEEKS AND ACCOMMODATE 200 PARTICIPANTS.

PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO TEACHERS WHO HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF POST-QUALIFICATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND HAVE DEVOTED AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF THEIR TEACHING TIME TO THE TEACHING OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH DURING THE PAST TWO ACADEMIC YEARS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO THE COURSES SHOULD APPLY BEFORE MARCH 15 TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION) AT 21/F, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 56 DUNDAS STREET, KOWLOON. RESULTS OF THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN APRIL.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT THE INSTITUTE ON 3-319418.

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TENDERS INVITED TO PROVIDE ROLLER SKATES FOR HIRE
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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE HIRING OF ROLLER SKATES AT VICTORIA PARK, CAUSEWAY BAY.

SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WILL BE AWARDED A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT FROM THE DATE OF SIGNING THE CONTRACT. THE CURRENT MONTHLY RENTAL IS \$5 000.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 153, SHAUKIWAN MAIN STREET EAST, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE AND PLACED BY HAND IN THE TENDER BOX AT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT RECEPTION COUNTER, 12TH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), ICE HOUSE STREET, BEFORE 9 A.M. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1985. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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NEW CLUB HOUSE OPENING
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THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW CHAI WAN KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION CLUB HOUSE AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE NEW OFFICE IS LOCATED AT L103 AND L104, HANG HING HOUSE, HING WAH ESTATE AT WAN TSUI ROAD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1985

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BUS SERVICE TO BE WITHDRAWN
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KMB ROUTE 5M OPERATING BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI MTR STATION AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WILL BE WITHDRAWN AS FROM SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 16), DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE.

TO COMPENSATE FOR THE CANCELLATION, THE ROUTEING FOR MAXICAB NUMBER 1 WILL BE REVISED FROM THE SAME DAY. THE CIRCULAR SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM TSIM SHA TSUI MTR STATION VIA HAIPHONG ROAD, HUMPHREYS AVENUE, CARNARVON ROAD, CORNWALL AVENUE, MODY ROAD, SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, GRANVILLE ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, CAMERON ROAD, CARNARVON ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, SALISBURY ROAD, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, SALISBURY ROAD, HANKOW ROAD AND HAIPHONG ROAD.

ADDITIONAL VEHICLES WILL BE DEPLOYED ON THE SERVICE IF NECESSARY.

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TRAVELLERS REMINDED ABOUT ANIMAL IMPORTS
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AN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED HOLIDAY-MAKERS TODAY THAT IT WAS AN OFFENCE TO BRING ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS OR PLANTS BACK TO HONG KONG.

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A DRASTIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF THESE ANIMALS OR PLANTS.

LAST MONTH, THERE WERE 101 CASES OF ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS INTO HONG KONG, RESULTING IN THE SEIZURE OF 153 HAWKS, 14 OWLS, THREE LEOPARD CATS, TWO PANGOLINS, ONE MONKEY AND 25 KILOGRAMS OF PANGOLIN MEAT.

THIS COMPARED WITH 24 CASES IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH WHEN 25 HAWKS, THREE OWLS, THREE LEOPARD CATS, FOUR PANGOLINS AND 7.7 KILOGRAMS OF PANGOLIN MEAT WERE SEIZED.

UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE, OFFENDERS WERE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5 000 ON CONVICTION FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND \$10 000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES.

AS THOUSANDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE EXPECTED TO VISIT CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, THE SPOKESMAN URGED THEM NOT TO BRING BACK ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS OR PLANTS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY TROUBLES.

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